

Message Text

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USDOCOSOUTH NAPLES IT
USNMR SHAPE BE
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 NATO 04642

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MARR NATO GR
SUBJECT: TECHNICAL GREEK-TURKISH ISSUES WHICH MAY
REQUIRE EARLY RESOLUTION

REFS: (A) 76 USNATO 6872, 161016Z DEC 76, (B) USNATO
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SUMMARY. INCREASED TURKISH INTRANSIGENCE ON GREEK-
RELATED ISSUES THREATENS TO HAVE AN IMPACT IN BOTH MILI-
TARY BUDGET COMMITTEE (MBC) AND INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEE
ACTIONS. THIS MESSAGE REPORTS ON POTENTIAL PROBLEMS
ARISING FROM THE PRESENT TURKISH APPROACH AND HOW WE
ANTICIPATE HANDLING THEM. END SUMMARY.

1. --DURING APPROVAL OF MILITARY BUDGET FOR 1977 IN THE
DPC IN DECEMBER 1976, TURKISH INSISTENCE ON A SOLUTION
OF GREEK AIR DEFENSE PROBLEMS LED TO THE TURKISH-GREEK
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CONFRONTATION IN THE DPC REPORTED REF A. THE IMMEDIATE
PROBLEM WAS AVERTED BY A DPC DECISION TO ALLOW THE
MILITARY BUDGET COMMITTEE TO RESORT TO INTERIM FUNDING
OF TURKISH AND GREEK NADGE FACILITIES THROUGH THE FIRST
HALF OF CY 1977. ON 1 APRIL THE CHAIRMAN, BATUK, OF
THE MBC PUBLISHED C-M(77)22 REPORTING TOTHE DPC THAT
NO SOLUTION HAD BEEN FOUND AND THAT THE MBC HAD NO

AUTHORITY TO CONTINUE INTERIM FUNDING BEYOND 30 JUNE 1977. D/SYG PANSA REFERRED TO THE URGENCY OF THIS PROBLEM DURING THE MAY 6 MEETING OF THE OPEN-ENDED GROUP ON GREECE-NATO RELATIONS (REF B), BUT NO IMMEDIATE SOLUTION IS IN SIGHT.

2. --WE UNDERSTAND THAT PANSA IS NOW CONSIDERING TWO ALTERNATIVE DRAFT P.O. PAPERS DESIGNED TO ACHIEVE TACIT APPROVAL OF THE NADGE PORTION OF THE MILITARY BUDGET FOR THE SECOND HALF OF CY 1977 UNDER THE SILENCE PROCEDURE, THUS GIVING NATO AN ADDITIONAL SIX MONTHS TO RESOLVE THE BASIC PROBLEM OF GREEK REFUSAL TO CONTRIBUTE AIR DEFENSE INFORMATION TO THE NATO POOL.

3. --WE BELIEVE THAT PANSA'S ATTEMPTS TO BUY TIME ARE REALISTIC GIVEN THE RECENT LACK OF MOVEMENT ON THE PROBLEM, AND EXPECT TO RECOMMEND US SUPPORT VIA THE SILENCE PROCEDURE IF A REASONABLE P.O. IS CIRCULATED.

4. --A SECOND PROBLEM HAS SURFACED IN THE INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEE WHERE, DURING THE PRELIMINARY ROUND OF SCREENING OF SLICE XXVIII COMMUNICATIONS PROJECTS ON 19 APRIL 77, THE TURKISH REP MADE A FORMAL STATEMENT (ANNEX II TO AC/4-DS/1049) OBJECTING TO THE PROGRAMMING OF SERIAL 107 WHICH WOULD PROVIDE A RADIO RELAY SYSTEM INVOLVING SHORT HOPS OVER THE ISLANDS OF THASSOS, SAMOTHRACE, LIMNOS AND LESBOS (MYTILINI) (ANNEX V TO AC/4-D/2942). THE ESSENCE OF THE TURKISH POSITION IS CONTAINED IN THE OPENING PARAGRAPH: "TURKEY BELIEVES THAT FOUR AEGEAN ISLANDS CONNECTED WITH THE PROJECT SERIAL 107, SLICE
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XXVIII, NAMELY THASSOS, SAMOTHRACE, LESBOS, LIMNOS, ARE DEMILITARIZED BY INTERNATIONAL TREATIES AND THAT CONSEQUENTLY MILITARY INSTALLATIONS CANNOT BE CONSTRUCTED IN THESE ISLANDS." THE TURKISH STATEMENT CITED THE TREATIES OF LONDON (1913), ATHENS (1913), LAUSANNE (1923) AND MONTREUX (1936), CHARGED THAT GREECE HAD MILITARIZED THE ISLANDS, AND AGREED THAT THE PROPOSED LINK WOULD BE A MILITARY INSTALLATION, IRRESPECTIVE OF THE FACT THAT IT WOULD BE CONSTRUCTED AND OPERATED BY THE GREEK PTT AUTHORITIES. THE TURKISH REP MADE IT CLEAR THAT TURKEY FELT SHAPE HAD NO BUSINESS PROPOSING SERIAL 107 AND SHOULD WITHDRAW THE PROJECT, A DEMAND THEY HAD PREVIOUSLY MADE IN THE MILITARY COMMITTEE.

5. --THE GREEK REP (COL BAKOUROS) MADE A FORMAL RESPONSE (ANNEX I TO AC/4-DS/1049) IN WHICH THE GREEKS ARGUED THAT THASSOS HAS NO SPECIAL STATUS, THAT THE PROVISIONS OF EARLIER TREATIES REQUIRING THE DEMILITARIZATION OF SAMOTHRACE AND LIMNOS WERE SUPERSEDED BY THE TREATY OF

MONTREUX, AND THAT NOTHING IN THE TREATY OF LAUSANNE COVERING LESBOS WOULD PROHIBIT THE INSTALLATION OF A COMMUNICATIONS LINK. THEY ARGUED FURTHER THAT THE PROJECT IS "A CIVILIAN, PTT-OPERATED INSTALLATION SERVING A NATO MINIMUM MILITARY REQUIREMENT FOR A NUMBER OF CHANNELS TO BE USED BY NATO INTEGRATED COMMANDS . . . " THE GREEKS ALSO STRESSED THE FACT THAT THE LINKS PROPOSED UNDER SERIAL 107 WERE PART OF A LARGER SYSTEM INCLUDING A TURKISH LINK FROM IZMIR TO KESAN WHICH HAD ALREADY BEEN PROGRAMMED UNDER SERIAL 84 OF SLICE XXVII.

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THEY SAID THAT THEY "CONSIDER BOTH PROJECTS (XXVII/84 AND XXVIII/107) AS TWO PORTIONS OF THE SAME PROJECT; THUS THEIR DESTINIES, AS THEY PROGRESS THROUGH THE PROGRAMMING AND BUDGETARY CONTROL PROCESS, MUST REMAIN LINKED." IN SHORT, IF THE TURKS PERSISTED IN BLOCKING THE GREEK PROJECT, THE TURKISH LINK WOULD NOT BE AUTHORIZED.

6. --THE INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEE, CLEARLY UNCOMFORTABLE WITH THIS ISSUE, LIMITED ITSELF TO HEARING THE TWO SIDES AND REQUESTING A FACT-FINDING REPORT FROM SHAPE (AFTER THE FACT, THE TURKISH REP (YAKIS) DISASSOCIATED HIMSELF FROM THE REQUEST). ON 10 MAY SHAPE PROVIDED A

STATEMENT WHICH INCLUDED AN ANALYSIS OF THE TREATY IMPLICATIONS BUT AVOIDED REFERENCE TO THE MILITARY SITUATION ON THE ISLANDS. IT DID REAFFIRM THE NATO MILITARY REQUIREMENT FOR THE PROJECT AND COMPARED THE CURRENT PROBLEM TO ONE RESOLVED IN 1957 WHERE INSTAL-
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LATIONS ON LEROS WERE ALLOWED TO CONTINUE UNDER SPECIFIC CONDITIONS (PO/57/142).

7. --AT THE MEETING OF 24 MAY, THE TURKISH REP, READING FROM RIGID INSTRUCTIONS, BRANDED THE SHAPE STATEMENT AS "INADMISSIBLE" AND DEMANDED ITS WITHDRAWAL. HE STATED THAT UNTIL THE STATEMENT WAS WITHDRAWN, HE COULD NOT PARTICIPATE IN ANY DISCUSSION OF THE PROJECT. THERE WAS NO SUPPORT IN THE COMMITTEE FOR THE WITHDRAWAL OF THE SHAPE STATEMENT, ALTHOUGH ALL MEMBERS AGREED THAT IT COULD BE TREATED AS SIMPLY AN INFORMAL, PRELIMINARY REPORT IN AN ATTEMPT TO GET AT THE FACTS.

8. --WITHOUT A MODIFICATION IN THE TURKISH POSITION, THE INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEE IS NOW PREVENTED FROM DISCUSSING THE ISSUE FURTHER, EVEN TO THE EXTENT OF REFERRING IT TO THE DPC. WE ARE ATTEMPTING TO GET TURKISH AGREEMENT TO INCLUDE THE PROJECT IN THE SLICE BOOK WITH A FOOTNOTE INDICATING THAT IT WILL NOT BE FUNDED UNTIL THE MILITARIZATION ISSUE HAS BEEN RESOLVED, AND THIS APPROACH MAY BECOME FEASIBLE AFTER THE TURKISH ELECTIONS. FAILING THAT, WE PLAN TO SUPPORT A DANISH SUGGESTION UNDER WHICH THE CHAIRMAN (SMITH) WOULD REPORT THE SITUATION TO THE SYG, WHO COULD THEN DISCUSS THE MATTER WITH PERMREPS, PERHAPS AT A TUESDAY LUNCH.

9. --WE EXPECT NO FURTHER DEVELOPMENTS IN THIS MATTER UNTIL AFTER THE RETURN OF THE INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEE FROM CANADA AT MID-MONTH. AT ITS NEXT MEETING ON 21 JUNE, WE WILL HAVE AN OPPORTUNITY TO EXPLORE ANY CHANGES OF THE TURKISH POSITION AND ANY ACTIONS NECESSARY TO AVOID DELAY IN APPROVAL OF SLICE XXVIII, NOW EXPECTED BY END JULY. BENNETT

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